

## HONORING LEE NAMEY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 1996*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor a distinguished public servant and good friend, Lee Namey, mayor of the city of Wilkes-Barre, PA. This month Mayor Namey stepped down from his post after 8 years of outstanding leadership. I am proud to pay tribute to Lee and to cite his many accomplishments before my colleagues in Congress.

Lee Namey began his political career in 1975 when he won a seat on the Wilkes-Barre City Council. He was reelected three times and twice served as the council chairman. In 1987, Lee Namey was swept into the office of mayor by a three-to-one majority.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Lee had a traditional middle-class upbringing. His father, Elias Leo Namey was a well-known labor leader and president of the Teamsters Local 401. His mother Claire, was a nurse. Lee earned his bachelor's degree in 1968 from Wilkes College and his master of fine arts degree from Marywood College. Prior to serving as mayor, Lee taught at the West Side Vocational-Technical School.

Lee has served and continues to serve the people of Wilkes-Barre by being active in many public service organizations. He serves on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania League of Cities, the policy committee of the National League of Cities, and as a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors where he served on the Community Development, Housing, and Arts, and the Culture and Recreation Committees. He is active with the F.M. Kirby Center, Osterhout Free Library, Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of Boy Scouts, and the United Way. Lee is also a member of the Wilkes University Council, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, Wilkes-Barre Democratic Executive Committee, Luzerne County Democratic Committee, and the Elks Lodge.

While Lee's involvement in these organizations reflects his personal commitment to improve the city of Wilkes-Barre and northeastern Pennsylvania in general, his many accomplishments as mayor must be cited to truly define his successes as mayor. Mayor Namey brought about great changes in Wilkes-Barre during a time when economic growth did not come easily to northeastern Pennsylvania.

I have been deeply honored to have worked closely with Lee on numerous projects over the years, and I would like to mention specifically just a few. In an effort to promote development during slow growth years, Mayor Namey worked closely with me to lead the Wilkes-Barre/Kingston Corridor Project, bring-

ing together leaders of these two communities and officials of other neighboring communities to develop a comprehensive strategy for business growth and community enhancement. Under Mayor Namey's leadership, the corridor project has yielded tangible benefits for Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, and all the small towns which together comprise the Wyoming Valley.

Mayor Namey worked to promote economic and community development in many other ways. Through the riverfront parks project, he united the small riverfront towns of the Wyoming Valley with the city of Wilkes-Barre to create a strong leadership force capable of promoting economic growth through the development of the Susquehanna River waterfront, and the creation of parks, recreation areas, and properties ideal for business development.

In the 8 years that Lee Namey served as the mayor of Wilkes-Barre he has been a reliable partner in projects requiring the coordination of Federal and local governmental efforts. I have been working with Mayor Namey on the Wyoming Valley levee raising project and the Wyoming Valley inflatable dam project. To each of these projects he has provided valuable and strong leadership. Mayor Namey has helped to identify the potential the inflatable dam has for providing for the economic and community development of Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding region.

Most recently, I have been working with Mayor Namey to renovate the dilapidated Stegmaier Brewery which has been an eyesore in the center of Wilkes-Barre for many years now. Mayor Namey has been an invaluable partner on this project, as he has been on some many others. I sought Lee's support for the project because I knew he was capable of steering the project over the rough roads it would have to travel before its completion.

Mr. Speaker, my close personal friend, Lee Namey has been an outstanding mayor for the city of Wilkes-Barre and I am sure that he will continue to be a valuable community leader. I am pleased to pay tribute to Mayor Namey and send him best wishes.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Women in Construction [NAWIC]. NAWIC is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and the celebration will be hosted by the Greater Alameda County Chapter of NAWIC in Oakland, CA.

The NAWIC is an international association of women employed in the construction industry. Its mission is to promote the construction industry and support the advancement of women within it. NAWIC does this by uniting women who are actively employed in the various phases of the construction industry, by promoting cooperation, fellowship, and a better understanding among members of the association, by encouraging women to pursue and establish careers in the construction industry, and by providing members with an awareness of the legislative process and legislation as it relates to the construction industry.

In 1953, 16 women organized Women In Construction [WIC] in Fort Worth, TX, to support women who were employed in the construction industry, a traditionally male-dominated field. In 1955, WIC gained its national charter and became NAWIC. Since its founding, NAWIC has grown to a membership of more than 200 chapters in 47 States and three Canadian provinces.

The NAWIC is made up of women who hold jobs in architecture, general construction, sub-contracting, material supplying, construction engineering, construction news services, and construction trade associations. NAWIC is the organization that ties the women who work in all of these phases of the construction industry together. NAWIC offers programs and seminars to its members to keep them up to date on issues of importance to the industry. They share the latest industry trends and information through meetings, the monthly bulletin, roundtable discussions, and networking. They also provide a no-charge occupational referral placement which places 30 to 40 people in construction and construction-related jobs each year and a clearinghouse for bidding and employment information issued by other associations, public work agencies, and unions.

NAWIC also has a strong commitment to the community. In 1972, the NAWIC Education Foundation was established to educate the community about the importance of the construction industry. Each year, the foundation sponsors competitions that are created to foster and promote construction as a viable career choice among young adults. In 1963, NAWIC established its Founders Scholarship Foundation, and in the past 5 years alone, has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to both male and female students pursuing construction-related studies.

In its nearly 40 years of service to its members, NAWIC has advanced the causes of all women in construction, women whose careers range from the skilled trades to architecture to business ownership. Mr. Speaker, I hope you and my colleagues will join me in recognizing the 35th anniversary of the National Association of Women in Construction and congratulating the membership on their achievements.